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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT



SPONSOR: Picraux DATE TYPED: 01/24/02 HB 201

SHORT TITLE: Home Modifications for Disabled SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST: Chabot

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
	\$3,000.0			Recurring	General Fund

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files  
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)  
 Governor's Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped (GCCH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 201 appropriates \$3,000.0 from the general fund to the Governor's Committee on Concerns of the Handicapped for the purpose of contracting for home modifications for persons with disabilities. These modification projects will emphasize access, egress and basic assistance with routine living functions.

#### Significant Issues

According to GCCH, there is no coordinated statewide program that provides for home modification assistance for people with disabilities. Other agencies have programs with different qualification requirements and have long waiting lists. People with disabilities would be able to access the program based on need and would allow individuals to remain home rather than go into nursing homes. GCCH states that the expressed intent of this bill is to assist people with disabilities in remaining in their place of residence or to return home from an institution setting. DVR also supports the bill because it would augment their efforts in vocational rehabilitation because of better living conditions.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$3,000.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

GCCH will have to develop policies and procedures for this program using its existing staff. No provision is made for any administrative expenses incurred to implement the program. Criteria should be established by GCCH so that the most critical needs are satisfied through a ranking system. In addition, an approval procedure needs to be established.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

GCCH states that the intent of his bill is to provide funding for the Handicapped Housing Modification Fund that was established by the 2001 legislature (Laws of 2001, Chapter 226) but which was provided no revenue. However, the bill does not reference that fund or provide for the appropriation to be deposited to that fund.

## **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. Is the intent of the bill to provide funding for a home modification program as part of the GCCH operating budget or to provide funding for the Handicapped Housing Modification Fund from which GCCH can use the earnings for establishing the program?

GAC/njw:ar